AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23.   (Cancelled).

24.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system that includes items stored in at least one volume, the volume being divided into at least one non-overlapping security zone, each of the at least one non-overlapping security zone being defined as a grouping of items having common security rules, each item residing in a non-overlapping security zone from among the at least one non-overlapping security zone, each non-overlapping security zone having one or more principals with administrative rights, a method of delegating administrative rights to other principals for first items included in a main non-overlapping security zone included in the at least one non-overlapping security zone, comprising:

an act of identifying first items for which common security rules are to be enforced and other items for which common security rules are to be maintained independent from the common security rules of the identified first items residing in a main non-overlapping security zone within a volume comprising a plurality of non-overlapping security zones;

an act of splitting the main non-overlapping security zone into a first non-overlapping security zone containing the identified first of items for which common security rules are to be enforced having common security rules and a remaining non-overlapping main security zone having the other items having common security rules that are not dependent upon the common security rules of the first non-overlapping security zone such that the first non-overlapping security zone and the remaining non-overlapping main security zones do not overlap with any of the plurality of other non-overlapping security zones included in the volume, the one or more main principals retaining administrative rights for the first non-overlapping security zone and the remaining main non-overlapping security zone, the first non-overlapping security zone including the first items and the remaining main non-overlapping security zone including only the other items from the main non-overlapping security zone not included in the first items, and wherein said splitting is restricted in such a way as to prevent overlapping between security zones and such that none of the first items and other items from the main non-overlapping security zone are

~~shared~~present in more than one security zone when the main non-overlapping security zone is split wherein the security zones thereby have a dynamic configurable granularity of items having common security rules; and

an act of specifying that one or more first principals also have administrative rights to the first non-overlapping security zone containing the first items, such that the entirety of items in the first non-overlapping security zone necessarily have the common security rules.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, specifying the one or more first principals is performed by the one or more main principals.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising the act of labeling the first items with a security zone enumeration corresponding to the first non-overlapping security zone.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, the administrative rights being security rights.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, the administrative rights being auditing rights.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising the act of specifying security rules for the first non-overlapping security zone after the act of splitting.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 comprising the act of specifying security rules for the first non-overlapping security zone by defaulting security rules that were from the main non-overlapping security zone prior to the act of splitting.

31. (Previously Presented) A method for creating a non-overlapping security zone from the first non-overlapping security zone and the remaining main non-overlapping security zone recited in claim 24 comprising an act of re-combining the first non-overlapping security zone and the remaining main non-overlapping security zone.

32.   (Previously Presented) A method for creating a non-overlapping security zone from the first non-overlapping security zone recited in claim 24 and a subsequent remaining main non-overlapping security zone, the subsequent remaining non-overlapping security zone formed from splitting the remaining main non-overlapping security zone, wherein the administrative principals of the subsequent remaining main non-overlapping security zone are the administrative principals in the main non-overlapping security zone, comprising an act of re-combining the first non-overlapping security zone and the subsequent remaining main non-overlapping security zone.

33.   (Cancelled)

34.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable storage media that store computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform a method of delegating administrative rights to other principals for first items included in a main non-overlapping security zone included in at least one non-overlapping security zone, comprising:

an act of identifying first items for which common security rules are to be enforced and other items for which common security rules are to be maintained independent from the common security rules of the identified first items residing in a main non-overlapping security zone within a volume comprising a plurality of non-overlapping security zones, wherein the security rules comprise an access control list defining the rights a principal has to the items in the security zone associated with the security rules;

an act of splitting the main non-overlapping security zone into a first non-overlapping security zone <u>containing the identified first</u> of items <u>for which common security rules are to be enforced</u> having common security rules and a remaining non-overlapping main security zone having <u>the other items having</u> common security rules that are not dependent upon the common security rules of the first non-overlapping security zone such that the first non-overlapping security zone and the remaining non-overlapping main security <u>zone</u> zones do not overlap with any of the plurality of other non-overlapping security zones included in the volume, the one or more main principals retaining administrative rights for the first non-overlapping security zone and the remaining main non-overlapping security zone, the first non-overlapping security zone including the first items and the remaining main non-overlapping security zone including only the other items from the main non-overlapping security zone not included in the first items, and wherein said splitting is restricted in such a way as to prevent overlapping between security zones and such that none of the first items and other items from the main non-overlapping security zone are <u>present in more than one security zone</u> shared when the main non-overlapping security zone is split wherein the security zones thereby have a dynamic configurable granularity of items having common security rules; and

an act of specifying that one or more first principals also have administrative rights to the first non-overlapping security zone containing the first items<u>, such that the entirety of items in the first non-overlapping security zone necessarily have the common security rules</u>.

35.   (Cancelled)

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~claim 24 wherein the security rules comprise an access control list defining the rights a principal has to the items in the security zone associated with the security rules.